



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 15 April 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
15 APRIL 1968

1. Vietnam

There are further indications that Thieu is getting ready to dump Prime Minister Loc and replace him with Tran Van Huong. Huong is a widely respected southerner and a former presidential candidate.

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The relative lull in fighting continues. Communist main-force units are avoiding engagements and appear to be concentrating on resupply, redeployment, and reorganization.

2. West Germany

Police in large West German cities are braced for trouble this morning as radicals try to convert annual student peace marches into riots. There are some signs, however, that student enthusiasm is flagging.

West Berlin Communists are openly egging on the students in that city, and the East Germans have announced that West German officials will not be allowed to transit East Germany en route to Berlin. This ban is not likely to have much effect as most such officials fly.

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3. Korea

North Korean raiders may stage more ambushes over the next few days in hopes of providing discordant background noise for the Honolulu meeting. Two American and two South Korean soldiers were killed yesterday when ambushed near Panmunjom.

4. Gold Market

Communist transactions on Western gold markets between the pound's devaluation in November and the temporary closing of the London market in March. While Communist countries bought at least \$200 million in bullion, this represents only seven percent of total transactions.

Major Communist purchasers were East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and China. Motivation appears to be the same as for other buyers--flight from the pound and expectation of a rise in price. The Soviets did not enter the markets either to buy or sell.

5. Soviet Union

Yesterday the Soviets put their sixth Soyuz-type space capsule into earth orbit. All have been unmanned except for the ill-fated flight of Komarov in Soyuz 1. If the present flight is successful, a manned flight could occur within the next few weeks.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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Guinea Offers Site: The Guinean foreign minister has offered Conakry or any other town in Guinea as a site for talks. The offer was made to Ambassador McIlvaine on Saturday evening.

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French Correspondent on Talks: The French press agency man in Hanoi has been used before when the North Vietnamese want to float a story without giving it official attribution. This may be the case with a story he filed Sunday commenting that "observers believe Hanoi will adopt a firmer attitude and set a deadline for selection of a place for the first meeting."

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Peking Commentary: Peking's views on preliminary talks between the US and North Vietnamese were conveyed in a People's Daily commentary today attacking the President's 31 March proposals. "Peace talks," say the Chinese, "are nothing but a strategem for the US aggressors to gain a respite and a smoke screen to cover up their scheme of intensifying the war." In case Hanoi missed that message, the commentary--with appropriate Mao quotes--concludes with the statement that only by defeating the US "on the battlefield" can the Vietnamese attain national liberation and reunification.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report.

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